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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
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10/579,086

04/10/2007

Arie Kroon

097298-0155

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26371 7590 01/10/2011  
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EXAMINER

HECKERT, JASON MARK

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

1711

MAIL DATE

DELIVERY MODE

01/10/2011

PAPER

**Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.**

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

<b>Office Action Summary</b>	<b>Application No.</b> 10/579,086	<b>Applicant(s)</b> KROON, ARIE	
	<b>Examiner</b> JASON HECKERT	<b>Art Unit</b> 1711	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

### Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

### Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 27 October 2010.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**.                      2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

### Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 113 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 113 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

### Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on \_\_\_\_\_ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.  
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).  
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

### Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All    b) ☐ Some \*    c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

### Attachment(s)

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| 1) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)                    | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)           |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____                                      |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)         | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____   | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____                          |

## **DETAILED ACTION**

### ***Response to Arguments***

1. Applicant's arguments filed 10/27/10 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive. First, the limitation of "water processing means" is very broad. The examiner believes that anything downstream of the water inlet and dosing unit can read on the water processing means, including the ducts and nozzles that deliver the mineral water, even at the machines outlet. Sergio does, in fact, disclose delivering the steam to delivery nozzle 15, which is the same delivery nozzle that delivers the mineral water. This provides the effect of sanitizing the ducts and elements that are exposed to air (paragraph 29). Thus, the examiner maintains the rejection on the basis that Sergio does teach delivering a cleaning agent to at least a part of the water processing means. If the applicant's components that are cleaned are significantly different than that of Sergio's, then they must be claimed in manner that differentiates them from the prior art.
2. In addition, one of ordinary skill is capable of using the teachings of Sergio to clean any portion of a water processing apparatus that necessitates cleaning. This would only require the modification of routing the steam of Sergio to the portion of the apparatus that needs cleaning, a routine modification that is well within the skill of one practicing the art.

### ***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103***

3. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the

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invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

4. Claim 113 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Biesheuvel et al (WO 03/050045) in view of Sergio et al (US 2003/0159447). The instant application is drawn to a water treatment apparatus for dispensing mineral water as a beverage, and a cleaning assembly for such unit. Biesheuvel discloses the claimed water treatment apparatus with a tap water inlet, mineral dosing unit, water processing means, and a control device 24 which performs water processing programs (figures 1-4, claims 1-35). Biesheuvel does not disclose a cleaning assembly provided to the unit for completing a sanitation program. Sergio discloses a beverage dispenser with an integral sanitation unit 30 for performing a prescribed cleaning process on the water treatment apparatus. Item 31 constitutes a cleaning agent vessel, from which cleaning agent can be supplied. Sergio discloses that the sanitation unit 30 is controlled by central processing unit 10, which is the same control unit that controls the water processing methods. Sergio further discloses that the cleaning agent cleans at least delivery nozzle 15, which can be considered part of the water processing means (paragraph 28-29). It would have been obvious at the time of invention to modify Biesheuvel and include sanitation means, as taught by Sergio, in order to sanitize the water processing machine.

5. Additionally, one of ordinary skill is capable of using the teachings of Sergio to clean any portion of a water processing apparatus that necessitates cleaning. This would only require the modification of routing the steam of Sergio to the portion of the apparatus that needs cleaning, a routine modification that is well within the skill of one

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practicing the art. Furthermore, such a modification would provide predictable results to one of ordinary skill.

### ***Conclusion***

Applicant's amendment necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection presented in this Office action. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See MPEP § 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the date of this final action.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to JASON HECKERT whose telephone number is (571)272-2702. The examiner can normally be reached on Mon. to Friday, 9:00 - 5:30.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Michael Barr can be reached on (571)272-1414. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

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Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/Michael Barr/  
Supervisory Patent Examiner, Art  
Unit 1711

JMH